



# Gas Gauge

## Ye Olde Car Club

### September 2015 Newsletter

#### The President's Message

We all love restored antique and classic cars and see them as works of art as much as fun to drive time machines that takes us back to our youth...when everything in life seemed less complicated. For those who are looking at having their first old car, or their tenth, always the \$64 question (add several zeros!) is: Should I find a project car and restore it, or buy a car already completed? Well!...it depends on a lot of factors, and pros and cons. Basically, here are a few major points on both directions. Take on a project if you really want to get your hands dirty, have lots of time, expect to spend at least twice what you budget, and question your sanity several times during the project. If you already have several projects in various states of completion and you will get around to finishing them someday...don't take on another project...buy a car already done!

I am a firm believer an old car buff should do one project car for the personal satisfaction of accomplishing the task...really makes you feel good and proud of the end result...and much wiser in the end. But, one project is usually enough.

As the following 2007 (and holds true 8 years later) article, titled "Four Reasons NOT to Restore a Vintage Car: You might be better off buying a car someone else has suffered through" written by J.P. Vetrano, Senior Editor at Large for Autoweek, affirms it is almost always far less costly and fewer headaches buying a completed car (depending on rarity) than restoring the same model car.

#### Four Reasons NOT to Restore a Vintage Car...

##### 1. You will not make money

*Les Jackson is no ordinary guy. He restores old cars for fun. Jackson and Satch Reed maintain a website called Second Chance Garage ([www.secondchancegarage.com](http://www.secondchancegarage.com)). Their description of the site as "a bible of restoration—how-to, auto theory, community" is generally accurate. As you wade through its pages, you'll find most of what you need to know if you're thinking about a restoration.*

*Jackson offers an Intro to Auto Restoration course in a community ed program, but at the start of each term, he rarely gets a quorum, as there's less interest than there used to be.*

*"I'm concerned that restoration is a fading art or a fading hobby," he says. "Maybe 95 percent of us have the potential to learn the process and be pretty good at it. The hard part is finding the motivation, commitment and patience. It's a labor of love, and that's all. If someone has to work to convince themselves, they probably shouldn't do it." If you're cut from Jackson's cloth, have at it. But first, consider four reasons you should not restore a car.*

##### 2. You will spend more than planned

*Everyone has thought when they see a project for cheap: "Hey, I'll snag this car, spend more time than money fixing it and then, after enjoying it, sell it at a tidy profit."*

*Fat chance. Whichever restoration type you try, the overwhelming odds are that the car and the job will end up costing more than they're worth. Yes, people have made big money through this process—but it's almost always those you've paid to do the work. The car's value simply will not support the cost of both the car and the rebuild.*

Jackson does everything himself—down to stitching seats—and says he has made money on his restorations. With 17 cars to his credit, he's both proficient and efficient. By his own calculation, for the tens of thousands of hours he's invested, he's returned about \$3 per. In other words, he'd earn more part-time serving fries with that order.

It only gets worse from there. If you act as general contractor, the most expensive subcontracted jobs will be paint and then an engine rebuild. For decent quality work, those two jobs alone will cost more than a clean, decently restored MGB. And no one will pay top dollar for a car unless it's a top-notch, fresh restoration. A full professional job is likely the least cost-effective proposition: Think 1000 hours at \$70 or so, or \$70,000. And that's just for the labor.

Unless the car was owned by someone famous, has a documented history, or is exceptionally rare and expensive, it will cost more to restore than it's worth.

### **3. You probably won't finish**

We've never met an enthusiast who restored a car and didn't overspend the budget. Ever. Even if you've set aside enormous mounds of cash, you'll buy things you never accounted for. And then the price of brake kits or weather-stripping or gaskets will go up. You'll buy things twice. If you're taking the car apart and putting it back together, you'll buy tools you never knew existed—and use them once. Your restorer, even if he's a seasoned pro and not a flake, will find something he hadn't anticipated. If you're not satisfied with the work, you might switch shops mid-process, and that will cost. In all cases, as the restoration moves toward completion, and you shake your head in resignation at the original budget, you'll be in the difficult position of having to skimp where you never expected you would. Or not, and spend large.

### **4. Protecting an heirloom isn't work the aggravation**

How do we count the ways? If Jackson flies through a modest, straightforward job, he will invest 1000 hours. He recommends a baseline projection of 2000 hours and much more for first-timers. Do the math: 2000 hours equals two hours and 45 minutes every day for two years. No, you get no holidays or days off.

Better to consider the old-car habit from another perspective: If it's driven more than twice a year, an already-restored or decent original car will offer enough tuning and tinkering opportunities to satisfy those who want to work with their hands.

"Restorations take so much time no matter how you do them, and they're tedious," says vintage-car expert Keith Martin, publisher of Sports Car Market. "There are never any pleasant surprises."

### **But if you insist...**

You've inherited an uncle's '65 Mustang coupe with the 129-hp, 200-cid straight-six. This money pit is deeper still, because the cost/value equation tips further out of whack. Done properly, restoring that six-cylinder 'Stang will cost almost as much as redoing a GT 350. In number terms, think about \$100,000 in a car that on a good day might get \$25,000. Is that "original is better" philosophy taking hold here? Not as it has in Europe, but it is gaining traction. A car is only original once. Spend what it takes to keep that heirloom running, and make your first \$10 million before committing to more and undertaking the whole project.

### **Best Car Museums**

Remember the Internet is a wonderful resource. Information and experts—or fools—are keystrokes away. A search will reveal regional car owners clubs, and sources such as [www.secondchancegarage.com](http://www.secondchancegarage.com) are essential. Perhaps more significant, used-car parts are easy to find on the web. Depending on your restoration needs, replica, rebuilt or original parts with next-day shipment are available without ever talking to a human. It was not long ago that parts were scavenged in swap meets around the country. That has all changed. "The satisfaction is similar to restoring or rebuilding a house, with some added benefits," says Jackson. "There can be more of a community aspect to restoring a car, and when you stop for gas, people ogle and marvel. 'You did that?' You can't drive a house to the gas station."

Robbin Johanson

\*\*\*\*\*

## EVENTS

**Thursday, September 9** the Ladies Luncheon held at Zinful Panini Grill had 10 ladies present. Sue Campbell hosted the event. Thanks Sue.

**Friday, September 18 - Guardian Angel Homes** - Luncheon - 11:00 – 1:30 pm, 245 Van Giesen Street, Richland

**Saturday, September 19 - Benton City Daze Parade** – 8:00 – 12:00 pm, Ki-Be Middle School - 913 Horne Dr. Benton City

**Saturday, September 19 - Streetscapes Car Show** - 11am - 4pm, Depot Square Parking Lot, 1230 Bennett Ave, Prosser, \$10 pre-registration, \$15 day of event, Registration at 10:30am.

**Friday, September 25 - Affinity at Southridge Senior Community** - 12:00 - 3:00 pm, 5207 W. Hildebrand Blvd., Kennewick

**Wednesday, September 30 - Benton & Franklin County RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)** Gesa Carousel of Dreams on Wednesday, September 30, from 4 to 6 PM. Since the carousel was created in 1910, the theme is the 1910 period. The YOCC has a few cars of that period, but 20's and early 30's cars would be great also. Period attire is appreciated but not necessary. Volunteers? (have 1 volunteer so far).

**Saturday, October 3 - Concours de Maryhill Loops 2015 Open Car Show** - Registration from 9-11 am; Show until 4 pm; Awards at 3:30 pm; Event Dinner at 4:00 pm - 28 classes including 10 VW classes and 4 European. Sponsored by the Goldendale Motor Sports Association. Registration: \$12 before 9/26; \$15 after and at gate; Buffet dinner \$18 per person. Contact: Dennis Schroder at 509-539-2557 or Travis Gray at 509-772-2531.

**Sunday, October 4 - Pacific Northwest Mustang Club 29th Annual Concours d'Elegance** - The show will be at Columbia Crest Winery, 178810 State Route 221, Patterson, WA (about 1.5 miles north of SR-14). Registration and parking at 9 am; awards ceremony around 3 pm. The show is open to all 4-wheeled vehicles (dually pickups accepted also), regardless of make or condition. [www.pnwmustangclub.org](http://www.pnwmustangclub.org) for more information.

**Thursday, October 8 - Ladies Luncheon** hosted by Laura Osterwyk. Location TBD. Please contact Laura, 783-7161 to let her know you will be coming.

**Friday, October 9 - Charbonneau Retirement Center** - Luncheon - 11:00 - 1:30 pm, 8264 West Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick

**Saturday, October 17 - The American Cancer Society** is holding a 5K walk on Saturday, October 17 in Columbia Park. YOCC has been invited to have antique and classic cars parked near the assembly area for folks to look at. Walker registration begins at 7:30 am; and walk at 9:30 am. Cars will be between the stage and boat launch.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BITS & PIECES

\*\*\*I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

### \*\*\*BUYING THE FARM:

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

\*\*\***Lies Told to Kids:** My parents got me to eat calamari by telling me they were "Italian Onion Rings".

### \*\*\* The Blonds are Back: Blonde on Time

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, 'Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?' 'Helllooooo. . . ,' answered the blonde. 'They're watch dogs'

**\*\*\* Outside a second-hand shop:** We exchange anything - Bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*\*DO NOT** shampoo your hair in the shower as the shampoo runs down your body when you are rinsing off your hair. I'm so relieved to finally get a health warning that is useful!

This is A WARNING to all of us!

I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner! I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, **"FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME."**

No wonder I have been gaining weight! Well! I got rid of that shampoo and I am going to start showering with Dawn Dishwashing Soap. It's label reads, **"DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."**

Problem solved! If I don't answer the phone, I'll be in the shower!

\*\*\*\*\*

**CORVETTE COGITATIN'**  
**1953-55**  
**FACTS, FANTASY AND FALSEHOODS, by Denny Wellington**  
**(Along with a few rumors)**

There are things that people know for certain about Corvettes. Most came with plastic bodies, but one was metal.\* Three hundred were manufactured "by hand" in 1953, in an old garage-warehouse in Flint, Michigan. At year end, one third were unsold.\*\*\*\* Therefore, GM gave some to celebrities so as to achieve some publicity.\*\* If the cars were rained upon, even with the top up, so were the occupants. The front seats were as suitable for making out, as the back seats in other cars.\*\*\* They did not come with plastic tops, nor was that a GM option. Plaston Inc. produced an after market item, but it was UUUgggLLlyyy; and collectors do not give a hoot for them.

The first of 3,640 1954's emerged from St Louis, MO. The price was \$3,254. Every possible option was standard equipment (sic)??, i.e. automatic transmission, AM radio, turn lights, heater, windshield washer, courtesy lights, white wall tires, and even a hand brake warning light.

In 1955, first of the V8's, there was an unusual option. It was the six cylinder, Blue Flame Special engine. Of seven hundred cars built, six customers did not trust a "first year, experimental" power plant and special ordered Chevy's stove bolt six. (Very valuable cars today)

Top Speed, 1954, ???using a test mule???, whatever that was: 156 MPH, driven by Zora Duntov, Legendary Father of the Corvette.

Biggest Fantasy aka "dream on": The 140 MPH speedometer.

Greatest Improvement all years: Twelve Volts.

Best Buy: About 1971: Perfect Hub Cap, in Marysville, WA Wrecking Yard. One Dollar.

Second Best Buy: Convertible Top, 1970 Sears Automotive Catalog, \$39.

Worst/ Best Buy: 2013, NOS tail lights, \$725 (More than I paid for the car) .

Celebrity passengers included: Pasco's Doc Hastings, State legislator and long time Congressman; Miss World, Benton County Fair Grounds, ca.1978###; Richland Mayor Lane Bray, the dual Homecoming Queens of Richland High, Tania Lee and Jody Reder on October 24, 1986, PLUS Princess of the Red Hats, Elke Davis, in the Fair parade on August 22, 2015.

\* FALSEHOOD

\*\* RUMOR: After thirty days, John Wayne gave his away.

## Cannot, for the life of me, scout's honor, remember her name.

\*\*\*FANTASY: See Playboy Magazine, May 1973, Available for viewing upon request.

\*\*\*\*FACT



Denny Dub Yuh

\*\*\*\*\*

***\*\*\*The family of Mike Munson (victim of ALS) has requested local car clubs, to stage another car show to caravan to the veteran's home in West Richland. Mike is in a wheel chair 100% of the time. Jerry England of the Retreads Car Club is coordinating a show on September 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm. Cars will depart Enterprise Middle School (5200 Paradise Way, West Richland, WA) at 12:45 pm and caravan to Mike's house. Mike couldn't speak, but he was all smiles and overjoyed while viewing the vehicles last time and the family expressed their gratitude numerous times for giving Mike a chance to relive his passion of old cars.***

\*\*\*\*\*

# Women's Corner

## MARTHA STEWART vs. ME

**Martha's way:** Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips.

**My way:** Just suck the ice cream out of the bottom of the cone, for Pete's sake. You are probably laying on the couch with your feet up eating it anyway.

**Martha's way:** Use a meat baster to "squeeze" your pancake batter onto the hot griddle and you'll get perfectly shaped pancakes every time.

**My way:** Buy the precooked kind you nuke in the microwave for 30 seconds. The hard part is getting them out of the plastic bag.

**Martha's way:** To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.

**My way:** Buy Hungry Jack mashed potato mix and keep it in the pantry for up to a year.

**Martha's way:** To prevent egg shells from cracking, add a pinch of salt to the water before hard boiling.

**My way:** Who cares if they crack, aren't you going to take the shells off anyway?

**Martha's way:** To easily remove burnt-on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover the bottom of the pan and bring to a boil on stovetop.

**My way:** Eat at Chili's every night and avoid cooking.

**Martha's way:** When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.

**My way:** Go to the bakery. They'll even decorate it for you.

**Martha's way:** Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

**My way:** Celery? Never heard of the stuff.

**Martha's way:** Place a slice of apple in hardened brown sugar to soften it.

**My way:** Brown sugar is supposed to be soft?

**Martha's way:** Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.

**My way:** Martha, dear, the only reason this works in because you can't rub a lime on your forehead without getting lime juice in your eye, and then the problem isn't the headache anymore, it is because you are now blind!

**Martha's way:** Don't throw out all that leftover wine. Freeze it into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

**My way:** Who has leftover wine? Never happens in this house.

**Martha's way:** Now look what you can do with Alka-Seltzer. Clean a toilet: Drop in two Alka-Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush & flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous china. Clean a vase: To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka-Seltzer tablets. Polish jewelry: Drop two Alka-Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes. Clean a thermos bottle: Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka-Seltzer tablets and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

**My way:** Put your jewelry, vases, and thermos in the toilet. Add some Alka-Seltzer and you have solved a whole bunch of problems at once.

Dinner anyone!

Thanks to my friend Edla Becker for this contribution.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 12 'Foreign' Cars Still Made In The U.S.A.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Board's list of 2015 vehicles assembled in the U.S. using the most U.S. and Canadian parts is dotted with overseas automakers who've built predominantly "American-made" vehicles here in the U.S. It's reached the point where even the most "American-made" sedans and pickup trucks aren't produced by U.S. automakers. The following are just some examples of the vehicles being produced in this country by overseas automakers.

## **Acura RDX**

**Assembled:** East Liberty, Ohio

The Japanese automakers typically don't build a whole lot of their luxury vehicles in the U.S., but Honda isn't afraid to make Acura a strong presence here. The Acura MDX, TLX, NSX and ILX are all produced at Honda plants in Alabama and Marysville, Ohio. However, the RDX tops them all by being built with 70% U.S.-made parts. Oh, and it's exclusively built here, unlike its sister crossover: The Honda CR-V. The CR-V is less expensive and far more popular, which means Honda has to assemble it in the U.S., Canada and Mexico just to meet demand. The future is here, and it's made in Ohio.

## **Infiniti QX60**

**Assembled:** Smyrna, Tenn.

This is the only Infiniti that Nissan makes at either of its two U.S. plants in Tennessee and Mississippi, but it isn't difficult to understand why. The former Infiniti JX is basically a luxury crossover built on a Nissan Pathfinder's frame. This isn't exactly news, and every Acura, Lexus and Infiniti owner knows he's driving a Honda, Toyota or Nissan with higher-grade upholstery and more expensive toys in the cabin. Even the 3.5-liter V6 engine and its 256-horsepower are basically equivalent to what you'll find in the Pathfinder. But it's the maple trim, leather seating, three-zone automatic climate control, two panoramic moon roofs, suite of collision-avoiding safety features, in-car remote concierge service, twin 7-inch passenger video screens and Bose surround sound that give the Infiniti its big-ticket value.

## **Volkswagen Passat**

**Assembled:** Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Chattanooga plant opened in 2011, employs 2,000 workers and produces only this mid-sized vehicle aimed squarely at American families. While it only built 22,000 of them in 2011, it's built more than 100,000 each year since. According to the NHTSB, roughly 42% of the Passat's parts were made here, but the intention is to get that total up to 85% while increasing production capacity to roughly 600,000 vehicles per year. Volkswagen has made a serious investment here, and a roomy midsize that gets about 37 miles to the gallon is a great foot forward.

## **Subaru Outback**

**Assembled:** Lafayette, Ind.

The Subaru of Indiana Automotive Plant was originally at Subaru-Isuzu joint venture when it first started producing vehicles in 1989. However, Subaru bought out Isuzu for exactly \$1 in 2002 -- Isuzu would leave the U.S. entirely by 2009 -- and used the space to build its short-lived Baja and Tribeca models but also its far more successful Legacy midsize and Outback wagon. Yes, the lacrosse car of choice is built right here in the U.S. with 50% U.S. parts in the same facility that currently produces the best-selling midsize car in the U.S., the Toyota Camry. The Camry leaves after next year, but some of Japan's strongest automotive ties to U.S. families will stem from Indiana.

## **Toyota Tundra**

**Assembled:** San Antonio, Texas

This isn't just the most American-made pickup from a foreign automaker: Its 75% U.S.-made parts make it the most American-made pickup period. The top-selling Ford F-150 paid for its 2015 upgrade by embracing a mix of parts that's only 65% U.S.-made (including some Canadian-made diesel engines). The Fiat Chrysler Ram series has only 61% U.S. parts -- with 23% Mexican parts -- and splits assembly locations between the U.S. and Mexico. GM's Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra? The majority (52%) of their parts are made in Mexico, and a bunch of models are assembled there. As the first full-sized pickup truck built by a Japanese manufacturer, the Tundra had a lot of baggage heaped into its cargo bed that the smaller, popular Tacoma never did. But the San Antonio-based plant that makes the Tundra gave it a Texas-sized upgrade two years ago that included a larger grille, brawnier fenders, a redesigned tailgate and taillights, as well as a completely redesigned interior. The Toyota practicality comes through inside, however, as a 3.5-inch information screen, Bluetooth connectivity and back-up camera are now among the features that take second billing to its towing and payload capacity. The Detroit Three's trucks are more popular, but Toyota's features, parts and labor make it more American than the lot of them.

## **BMW X Series**

**Assembled:** Greer, S.C.

When BMW built this plant in 1994, it had no intention of making a facility that cranked out cars just to placate U.S. buyers. It wanted somewhere that would help deliver a new breed of luxury car to the world. BMW's X series of crossover SUVs has all of the plush amenities of the German automaker's coupes and sedans, but the hopped-up horsepower and slew of tech features including a Mobile Office function that enables text-to-speech readings of e-mail, calendar entries and notes made it a fast favorite worldwide. Roughly 364,000 X series vehicles were produced in South Carolina last year, but 70% were exported to

140 countries. In fact, the X series has proven so popular that BMW has opted to spend a billion dollars and make the South Carolina facility the automaker's largest factory in the world.

### **Nissan Pathfinder**

**Assembled:** Smyrna, Tenn.

Nissan has two plants in the U.S. -- one in Smyrna and the other in Canton, Miss. -- assembling 12 Nissan vehicles (and the Infiniti QX60). It's made a hefty investment in this market, for which it's received an 8.6% share of U.S. auto sales, putting it in sixth place in market share behind Honda, Toyota, Chrysler, Ford and GM. Its vehicles here are built with 50% U.S.-made parts and have a distinctly American appeal to them. However, as lagging sales of the Nissan Titan pickup and the recent decommissioning of the Nissan Xterra make clear, Nissan still has a bit of catching up to do. As recently as two years ago, the Pathfinder was still being built to compete with the Chevy Blazer and Ford Bronco. It was hopped up on trucks, still getting a paltry 18 miles per gallon and it still firmly believed a 4.0-liter V6 is something anyone wants in a family vehicle. Recently, it joined the rest of the modern automotive world by switching to a car-platform crossover, trimming to a 3.5-liter V6 and cutting fuel economy to a combined 23 miles per gallon. It still has seven seats, nearly 80 cubic feet of storage room with the two rows of rear seats down. The second row moves up five inches for easy rear-seat access and there's three-zone climate control to go with an available three-zone entertainment center.

### **Honda Odyssey**

**Assembled:** Lincoln, Ala.

This is what you're talking about when you discuss the great American minivan. Made with 75% U.S.-produced parts, the Odyssey has as many U.S.-made pieces as Chrysler's Town and Country and Grand Caravan but doesn't have to cross the border into Canada for assembly as those two do. Honda has four U.S. plants in Alabama, Indiana and Ohio that build more than a dozen Honda and Acura vehicles here. However, few capture the spirit of the U.S. family quite like the Odyssey. It can carry five family members, store drinks and snacks in a center-console cool box and collapse its third row to offer 93.1 cubic feet for more storage. Oh, and there's the optional 16.2-inch split screen entertainment system that lets passengers watch two programs at once and has an optional built-in vacuum cleaner to pick up and crumbs and road snacks left behind. It knows the American family well, and doesn't let that Tokyo-headquartered nameplate get in its way.

### **Hyundai Elantra**

**Assembled:** Montgomery, Ala.

This is Hyundai's tenth year of Assembling vehicles at its Alabama plant, where it produces more than 300,000 vehicles a year and provides more than 5,500 jobs. That's the good news. The bad news is that, according to the NHTSB, only about 39% of the Elantra's parts are made here. That includes the engine and transmission, but 60% of the Elantra is still sourced from Korea, compared to 46% to 49% of the Hyundai Sonata made at the same facility. Still, the Elantra is by far the best-selling Hyundai in the U.S., with the 129,000 sold through June outpacing the Chevrolet Cruze and Ford Fusion. It isn't the most "American" vehicle made in the U.S., but it's certainly one of the most popular to come out of a foreign automaker's plant.

### **Kia Sorento**

**Assembled:** West Point, Ga.

Yes, Hyundai and Kia fall under the same umbrella -- as evidenced by the fact that the Hyundai Santa Fe is being produced at this Kia plant -- but here in the U.S., the Kia brand warrants homes of its own. Kia has its own design center in Irvine, Calif., and has made about 300,000 cars a year in Georgia since 2010. Not just any cars, but its midsize Sorento SUV and midsize Optima that are considered the brand's flagships here in the U.S. Granted, it doesn't sell enough of them to match Hyundai's 4.4% market share, but Kia's 3.6% share of the U.S. market exceeds that of Subaru (3.2%) and that of Mazda (1.9%), Fiat (0.3%) and Mitsubishi (0.5%) combined.

### **Mercedes-Benz C-Class**

**Assembled:** Vance, Ala.

Welcome to the last and, perhaps, best remnant of the Daimler Chrysler partnership. Mercedes-Benz has been making vehicles here since 1997 and employs about 4,000 workers to crank out its M-Class, R-Class and GL-Class vehicles here. The facility's biggest coup, however, came last year when it was announced that production of the automaker's popular, entry-level C-Class would be shifted here. That's a high-profile addition for a facility that's already fairly impressive thanks to its multiple test tracks, its Mercedes-Benz Museum and its collection of cars. Though Daimler Chrysler dissolved ten years after this plant open, it seems both Mercedes and Alabama got the best end of the deal.

## Toyota Camry

**Assembled:** Georgetown, Ky.

Yes, we've already included Toyota on this list, but we're including Camry to prove a point: That Toyota doesn't have the biggest share of the U.S. market held by any foreign automaker for no reason at all. It has four facilities in Kentucky, Indiana, Texas and Mississippi. Its Kentucky plant has been making Toyotas since 1988 and produces the size-large Avalon specifically for U.S. consumers. However, the Camry has more U.S.-made parts (75%) than any midsize vehicle currently sold in this country and is the third best-selling vehicle in the U.S. behind the Ford F-150 and Chevrolet Silverado. Between the Camry and the Mississippi-assembled Toyota Corolla, Toyota sells more compact and midsize cars in the U.S. than any other manufacturer, and it's done so by making a second home here. Other Japanese automakers may follow Mitsubishi out of U.S. production -- or follow Suzuki and Isuzu's lead and leave the market altogether -- but Toyota isn't going anywhere.

From [www.thestreet.com](http://www.thestreet.com), by Jason Notte

\*\*\*\*\*

**A group of students** were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read: "I think the "Seven Wonders of the World" are:

1. To See
2. To Hear
3. To Touch
4. To Taste
5. To Feel
6. To Laugh
7. To Love

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Thanks to cousin Jacki.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dennis and I are taking an AARP Smart Driver Course at the Pasco Senior Center October 13 and 14, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our Insurance agent estimates we will save 10% on our car insurance. It is also available in November and December. It appears to be free, as they have not asked us for any money.

Contact [www.pascoparksandrec.com](http://www.pascoparksandrec.com) Click "Adults 50+" and then "Life Long Learning"

# CELEBRATION OF DAVID HOWARD UNDERWOOD LIFE 09-13-2015

A lovely memorial service was held on September 13 at Einan's Sunset Gardens Event Center in Richland. In attendance: Dave & Cory Hannah, 1930 Ford Model A Tudor; Jim Ayers, 1941 Packard 110 Convertible; Dennis & Frances McGillis, 1951 Plymouth Coupe; Jack Stone, 1954 Chevrolet Belair; Bob & Dolores McClary, 1955 Oldsmobile 88; Jerry Wells, 1957 Chevrolet Belair 4DR HT; Robbin & Carolyn Johanson, 1964 Ford Fairlane Sports Coupe; Myrtle Nesbitt, Dwight Underwood, Mike Underwood, and Jim Vetrano

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Ethanol-free gasoline, my personal experience**

By Dennis McGillis

An article by Jay Leno about Ethanol in gasoline had me looking up local stations which sell gas without it and a few months ago I circulated a list of a dozen Tri-Cities sources.

Today was my first experience actually buying some. I went to the station closest to my home: Connell Oil/PACIFIC PRIDE at 3802 Swallow Ave. in Pasco at 4th & Dynamics on the east side of the airport. They had pumps labeled "no ethanol" but there seemed no way to purchase it - no credit card slot and no attendant.

The next closest, at 1021 N Oregon Ave in Pasco a half mile south of 182 had credit card readers and quickly dispensed ten gallons of 91 octane ethanol-free product at \$3.739 per gallon, about \$1 more than fuel with ethanol.

This product should provide improved driveability, particularly after the car sits for several weeks. We'll see!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries in September



### Birthdays

Jim Ayers	September 26	Laura Beaver	September 18
Sue Campbell	September 15	Rose Chastain	September 4
Jim Galloway	September 18	Cole James	September 10
Marti Meyers	September 17	Jan Mokler	September 1
Renee Nesbitt	September 20	Lee Noga	September 28
Linda Porter	September 8	Dolly Prather	September 21
Ginger Vetrano	September 13	Don Woodford	September 10
Jack Yale	September 1		



### Anniversaries

Russ & Jane Armstrong	September 11	Rick & Wendi Ball	September 12
Richard & Rose Chastain	September 23	Tom & Karen Cowan	September 20
Denny & Linda Kehl	September 15	Jim & Dotiy Reynolds	September 18
Ron & Patricia Smith	September 22		

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2015 YOCC Officers

Robbin Johanson, President  
628-2547  
robbinjohanson@frontier.com

DaJuan ReckNagle, Officer at Large  
948-0340  
dajuan@BHHSTriCities.com

Cory Hannah, Vice President  
737-8911  
rockcrawling@gmail.com

Bob Gough, Treasurer  
628-1493  
bag@pocketinet.com

Randy Bunch, Secretary  
543-6554  
jrbunch@charter.net

Dolores McClary, Sunshine  
783-3622  
bobanddodo@gmail.com

Frances McGillis, Editor  
545-4077  
sixkidsplusthree@gmail.com

John Trumbo, Swap Meet Chairman  
582-4297  
jtdugan@owt.com

Bill White, Swap Meet Chairman  
946-7633  
williamblwh@yahoo.com

Scott Noga, Webmaster  
545-5903  
rebus@bridgestonemotorcycle.com